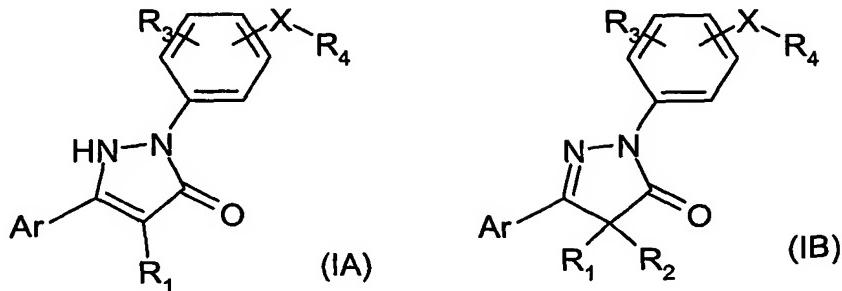


## Claims:

1. A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof:

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wherein

Ar represents an optionally substituted monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic or

10 heteroaromatic group having from 5 to 10 ring atoms,

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> independently represent H, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>3</sub> represents H; F; Cl; Br; -NO<sub>2</sub>; -CN; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl optionally substituted by F

15 or Cl; or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy optionally substituted by F;

R<sub>4</sub> represents a carboxylic acid group (-COOH) or an ester thereof, or  
-C(=O)NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, -NR<sub>7</sub>C(=O)R<sub>6</sub>, -NR<sub>7</sub>C(=O)OR<sub>6</sub>, -NHC(=O)NR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>6</sub> or -  
NHC(=S)NR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>6</sub> wherein

20 R<sub>6</sub> represents H, or a radical of formula -(Alk)<sub>m</sub>-Q wherein

m is 0 or 1

Alk is an optionally substituted divalent straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkylene, or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkenylene, or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkynylene radical or a divalent C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> carbocyclic radical, any of which radicals may be interrupted by one or more -O-, -S- or -N(R<sub>8</sub>)- radicals

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wherein R<sub>8</sub> represents H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkynyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, and

Q represents H; -CF<sub>3</sub>; -OH; -SH; -NR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>8</sub> wherein each R<sub>8</sub> may  
5 be the same or different, or form a ring when taken together with  
the nitrogen to which they are attached; an ester group; or an  
optionally substituted aryl, aryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or  
heterocyclic group; and

10 R<sub>7</sub> represents H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; or when taken together with the atom or  
atoms to which they are attached R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> form a monocyclic  
heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms; and

15 X represents a bond or a divalent radical of formula -(Z)<sub>n</sub>-(Alk)- or  
-(Alk)-(Z)<sub>n</sub>- wherein Z represents -O-, -S- or -NH-, Alk is as defined in  
relation to R<sub>6</sub> and n is 0 or 1.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> in compounds (IA) and  
each of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> in compounds (IB) is other than hydrogen.

20 3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R<sub>4</sub> represents a  
carboxylic acid group (-COOH) or an ester group of formula -COOR wherein  
R is methyl, ethyl n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl, or benzyl.

25 4. A compound as claimed in claim any of the preceding claims wherein  
R<sub>6</sub> represents a radical of formula -(Alk)<sub>m</sub>-Q wherein m is 1, Alk is -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -  
CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>-, or a divalent cyclopropylene,  
cyclopentylene or cyclohexylene radical, optionally substituted by OH, oxo,  
CF<sub>3</sub>, methoxy or ethoxy, and Q represents hydrogen; -NR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>8</sub> wherein each R<sub>8</sub>  
30 may be the same or different and selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or  
isopropyl or tert-butyl; a methyl, ethyl or benzyl ester; or an optionally  
substituted phenyl, phenoxy, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, furyl, thienyl, piperidyl,  
or piperazinyl group.

5. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R<sub>7</sub> represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, n-, sec- or tert-butyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms;

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6. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein Ar is optionally substituted phenyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2-, or 3-furyl, 2-, or 3-thienyl, benzfur-2-yl, or benzthien-2-yl.

10 7 A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein Ar is substituted by F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

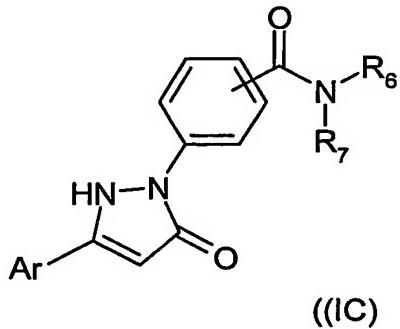
8. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein Ar is 3-fluorophenyl, or 2- or 3-furyl.

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9. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R<sub>3</sub> is H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

10. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein X is a  
20 bond, or a -CH<sub>2</sub>- or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>- radical.

11. A compound as claimed in claim 1 which is of formula (IC) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt, hydrate or solvate thereof:



((IC))

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12. A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein the radical -C(=O)NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub> is in the 4-position of the phenyl ring.

13. A compound as claimed in claim 11 or claim 12 wherein R<sub>7</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>6</sub> is -AlkNR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>8</sub> wherein the R<sub>8</sub> groups are as defined in claim 1.

5 14. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13 together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable excipient or carrier.

10 15. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13 for use in the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

16. The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

15 17. A method of immunomodulation in mammals, including humans, comprising administration to a mammal in need of such treatment an immunomodulatory effective dose of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13.

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